

Atty. Ref.: P1276US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants :

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Appl. No.

10/680,991

Filed

October 8, 2003

For

IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

MS Missing Parts Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF OMITTED ITEMS

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted as a response to Option III on the January 5, 2004 Notice of Omitted Items. Please amend the application as follows:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

MS Missing Parts Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on January 12, 2004 Marie B. Bufalo

marie a. oufalo.